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Indochina  
- funding

PPB 71-1155

16 July 1971

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Don Brazier, DOD, [REDACTED]

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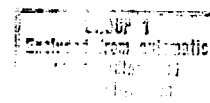
1. Called Don Brazier, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Comptroller), Department of Defense, to inquire of the Defense Department's response to the attached letter. I outlined to Don the concerns registered by Senators Stennis and Smith at our budget session on Wednesday, 14 July. I advised him that I had heard via our people and State that Braswell is seeking a way to remove the funds from [REDACTED]

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I inquired whether he had heard this or whether this was even a legitimate method. I noted that to my knowledge neither the House nor the Senate Committees or staffs had contemplated this.

2. Don advised that he had the letter from Senator Stennis and was preparing an answer and promised to send me a copy of that answer. He observed that the Secretary was out of town and he was not sure Stennis would accept someone else appearing in lieu of the Secretary. With respect to the shift of Agency money in FY 1972 to MASF programs, Brazier stated he had legal problems with this proposal which essentially went to the question of how Defense dispersed the money, and he stated that he would be opposed to any such proposal.

3. I explained that the Clay Committee Report seemed to be taking us in a direction desired by Senator Stennis and that perhaps it would be helpful for the Senator to know what Defense plans for 1973 are with respect to [REDACTED]. Brazier observed that there might be an opportunity to discuss this with Braswell as far as 73 is concerned but he did not see any real opportunity to make any changes in FY 72. I advised that Senator Stennis indicated he would like to have all of [REDACTED] monies out of the Agency budget and we had been given similar observations by Mr. Andrews in the session held with the Mahon Sub-Committee. Brazier noted he understood there was a lot of movement to try to extricate the Agency from budgeting for these things but restated that 72 is just not the time to do it.

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4. The conversation closed with an assurance by Brazier that he would keep me advised of their responses to these inquiries and we would both insure, insofar as possible, that Congressional manipulations of these amounts were not done in any unilateral fashion so that budgetary confusion would occur.

(signed) John M. Clarke

John M. Clarke  
Director/PPB

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Attachment:

Stennis letter to Laird, 7/13/71

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